

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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Housing Is Live Campaign Issue

Two Major Parties Disagree on Best Method to Relieve Shortage of Homes

Veteran with wife and two children desperately needs apartment or small house. Will pay up to \$60 per month. Won't you please help me find a home for my family? Call NA 9322.

This classified advertisement recently appeared in a Washington newspaper. It is typical of thousands which may be read every day in the "Wanted To Rent" columns of big city papers. In a few words, it explains what "the housing problem" means to an American family.

Multiply this case by 3 million and you have a measure of the nation-wide housing shortage today. This is the number of married couples, many with children, who have been forced to move in with relatives or friends because they cannot find separate homes or apartments. They represent nearly 10 per cent of all the families in the United States.

In addition, millions of other families are living in crowded, unsanitary city slums or in sub-standard rural dwellings. Many of these buildings not only lack modern conveniences such as gas, electricity, and running water, but are in run-down condition and are situated in congested areas near factories or railroad tracks. They provide a roof over the heads of their occupants but that is about all that can be said for them.

The existence of such conditions has been made a major issue in the political campaign this year. Next to the high cost of living, President Truman

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CHARLES DE GAULLE, a conservative and bitterly anti-Communist political leader in France.



HENRI QUEUILLE, Radical Socialist, is premier of France as we go to press. His party, despite its name, is conservative.



MAURICE THOREZ, head of the French Communist Party which is trying to increase its power.

Government Crisis in France

Problem of High Prices Has Divided the French Assembly and Makes It Difficult for Nation's Leaders to Carry Out Long-Range Program

THE news from France this month is important and, from the American standpoint, it is not good. At the very time when the United States is making a great effort to help restore and strengthen the countries of western Europe, France, which occupies a key position among these nations, is showing signs of strain and weakness.

From the time when Harry Truman became President of the United States until this month, there have been 7 premiers of France. During the recent cabinet crisis others were added, some of them holding office but a few hours.

Since the premier of France has powers similar to those of the American President, the French situation is somewhat like ours would be if more than 7 Presidents had occupied the

White House during the period of the Truman administration. Inasmuch as terms of the premiers are so short and so uncertain, the government is unstable. It is hard to have long-range policies carried out. A premier may stand for some program of national or foreign policy, but no one knows whether that policy will be followed next month or next year for, by that time, the premier may be out and someone with ideas very different from his may be in office.

But why do premiers so often fall from power? Why are their terms so short? To answer these questions, we must understand, first, the way the French government operates; and second, the political party system.

The French parliament consists of the Council of the Republic and the

National Assembly. The Assembly is the more important body. The Council may recommend legislation, but the Assembly acts on it. The most important official is the premier. There is a president, but he has little power. The premier is really the head of the government. He must be a member of the Assembly and he, together with his cabinet, whom he appoints, recommends legislation and, in general, outlines national policies.

The premier holds power only so long as a majority of the members of the Assembly support the laws which he recommends. If he asks the Assembly to pass an important piece of legislation, and if a majority in the Assembly votes against it, he must resign. The president then appoints another premier, but he cannot choose whomever he may please. He must select a man who, in his opinion, is popular enough with the Assembly that he will have the support of a majority.

It is harder than one might think for a premier to get a majority in the Assembly. The reason is that in France there are not just two great parties as there are in the United States. There are a number of them. At present, there are 13 parties, 7 of which are large and important.

Since there are so many parties, no one party has a majority in the Assembly. Laws can be passed only when several of the parties unite in their support. The premier cannot stay in office if he has the backing merely of his own party. He must make deals with the other parties. He may, for example, say to the leader of one of the parties:

"If you will support my program, and if you will vote for the important laws which I advocate, I will appoint you to be a member of my cabinet and will support some of your ideas."

A premier always fills cabinet positions with members of other parties

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Think Before You Say It!

By Walter E. Myer



Walter E. Myer

THIS is a free country and you have the legal right to say what you please, provided your remarks cannot be proven to be both untrue and slanderous. But that doesn't mean that you should exercise the right indiscriminately or whenever you feel like doing so. As a matter of fact the right to criticize should be used sparingly. A careful and prudent man will condemn his friends courageously when he thinks that good will come from his comments, and that harm or injustice will result from his holding his tongue.

Otherwise it is the part of wisdom for one to banish unkind words and the expression of judgments which will be hurtful to others. If that rule were universally followed every person would have more loyal friends and would enjoy more peace of mind.

Your judgments of others, while still unspoken, are in your keeping. If you have heard petty gossip about someone you know, something that would anger him or hurt his feelings or make him less popular, you may still turn matters over in your mind and decide whether to add your voice to the chorus of criticism.

But once you have spoken the matter is out of your hands. Your words may be thought of as beasts of prey, which you can keep securely chained but which, unleashed, defy recapture and go about their work of mischief.

You may later reconsider; may wish you could stand at your friend's side and protect him from the unkind comments which are going the rounds, but it may be too late. You hear your own harsh words quoted and possibly twisted, and a valued friendship may be forever lost.

Eight centuries ago Omar Khayyam, impressed by the fact that much of what we say cannot be unsaid nor what we do

undone, wrote these now famous lines: "The Moving Finger writes; and having writ,

"Moves on; nor all your Piety nor Wit,

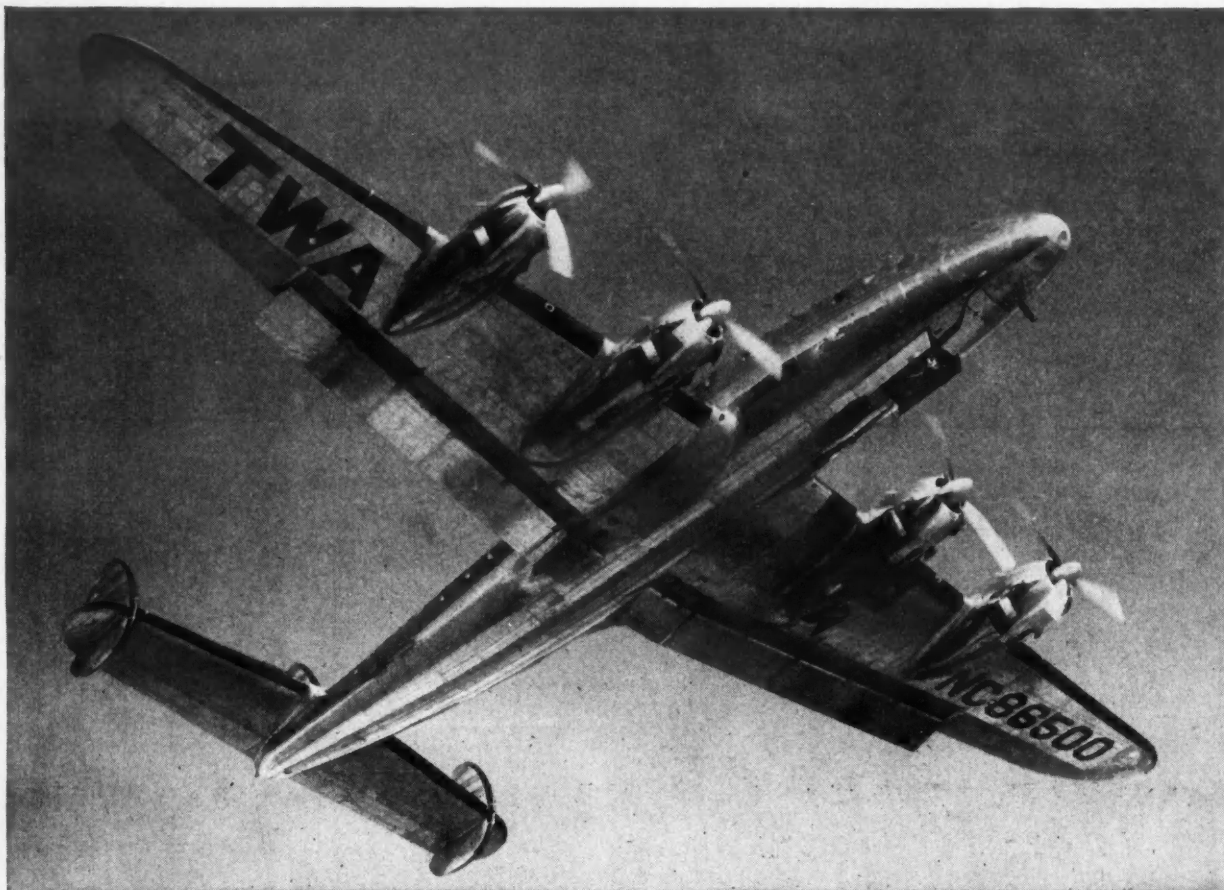
"Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line,

"Nor all your Tears wash out a Word of it."

I do not mean by anything I have said that one should be a negative character, refraining from expressing his opinions. One should work and speak for whatever causes seem to him to be just and fair and desirable.

It is one thing to stand for what you believe to be right. It is quite another thing to criticize others heedlessly or to say hurtful things when there is no sound reason to think that good will come from your remarks. The point is that you should always act thoughtfully and courageously, but that you should at all times see to it that you do not inflict unnecessary wounds.

Weekly Digest of Fact and Opinion



THE CONSTELLATION is one of the giant "ships" of trans-Atlantic air routes

(The opinions quoted or summarized on this page are not necessarily endorsed by THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.)

"The North Atlantic—Airline Millpond," by Edward Doherty, Jr., *Travel*.

For many people, flying across the Atlantic Ocean is nearly as commonplace as riding a streetcar—and a hundred times more enjoyable. More than 1,000 people a day cross the Atlantic by air. A flight from New York to London takes only 14 hours—less than the fastest rail time from Chicago to New York.

Trans-Atlantic flying has become big business in the last two or three years. Eight airlines now offer service to Europe on regular schedules. For quick business trips or longer vacation journeys, more and more people are flying from New York to London, Paris, Amsterdam, or Stockholm.

The opening of the North Atlantic to airline transport was one of the great wartime accomplishments of the Air Transport Command. Veteran pilots and weather observers pioneered the uncharted air space above the stormy Atlantic to find the best routes for military planes. They discovered that, thousands of feet above the storm-lashed ocean, the air was calm and steady, ideal for high-altitude flying. By the time the war ended, military planes were taking off on North Atlantic hops at the rate of one every few minutes.

Commercial airlines have built on this experience and have added comforts and luxuries impossible in wartime. Comfortable reclining chairs and tasty meals make air travel a pleasure. "Pressurized cabins" of the type used in B-29 bombers keep air pressure in the plane fairly constant and assure passengers of plenty of oxygen.

To provide all these services takes a big organization of highly trained workers. To get one 4-engine plane

into the air, keep it flying, and arrange for its passengers and freight requires no less than 160 employees. Each plane carries a crew of 9—four pilots, flight engineer, radio operator, navigator, purser, and stewardess. At the airports, there must be mechanics, inspectors, weather experts, and dispatchers on duty 24 hours a day.

When crossing the ocean, planes do not fly a straight course. High above the clouds they follow the prevailing winds which whirl in great circular patterns around high and low pressure areas. Pilots report that they make better time by taking longer routes and flying *with* the wind instead of taking shortcuts and flying *against* the wind. In trans-Atlantic flying it is sometimes true that "the longest way around is the shortest way there."

Because of modern, high-speed air travel, distance is no longer measured in miles but in hours. We no longer think of London as being 3,000 miles away, but 14 hours by plane. The world is still 26,000 miles around, but we can circle it by air in only 60 hours. That's what the airplane is doing to our old ideas of world geography.

"Young Man, Go To Casablanca," by Edward Toledano, *Harper's Magazine*.

Ever since the recent war, all of French Morocco, and especially Casablanca, has been undergoing great changes. Industries are springing up everywhere and Moroccan agriculture, which used to be inefficient and outdated, is being rapidly modernized.

This development has come about mainly because of World War II. Before that conflict, Morocco had very little industry and its farming methods were the same as those used by Moroccans during the last thousand years.

When war came, the picture

changed. French businessmen, who had fled from their country when it was invaded by Hitler, and others invested their money in Moroccan enterprises. They built textile mills and canning factories, and provided the money that was needed to dig up the country's rich deposits of phosphates, iron, lead, cobalt and manganese.

The American soldier also helped "modernize" French Morocco. When we invaded North Africa in November, 1942, the Moroccans saw our GI's use such typically American products as electric razors, and they developed a desire for these things.

Since the war, many American war veterans have returned to Casablanca and other cities in French Morocco and formed new businesses.

"Middletown Offers a Plan for Peace," by Brooks Atkinson, *New York Times Magazine*.

The people of Middletown, Ohio, have done something that has won them praise from many public leaders and educators. They have organized a Citizens Committee that informs the community about all questions affecting the peace of the world and tries to influence Congress on legislation having to do with foreign affairs.

The committee was set up two years ago when a group of war veterans in Middletown became convinced that there might be another world war if nothing concrete were done to stop it. They met together to draw up their plans and then called a town meeting that was attended by over 1,500 people. (Middletown has a total population of 40,000.)

Out of this meeting came the Middletown Citizens Committee, which arranges lectures on world affairs and the United Nations, prints literature on important questions of the day, and generally keeps the people informed about what is happening along the

"peace front." About 450 communities, both here and in foreign countries, have followed Middletown's example and set up similar groups.

The officers of the Middletown Citizens Committee hope that what they are doing will help keep peace in the world. They feel that if the leaders of the various countries see that the people want peace and not war, they will do their utmost to prevent another conflict from breaking out.

The committee recently has come out for a strong United Nations in place of the present weak organization. It declares that war cannot be stopped if the UN does not have the power to intervene in a conflict and make both sides cease fighting.

"What Youth Wants Most," by Elizabeth Tate, *Ladies' Home Journal*.

A nation-wide essay contest, open only to high school seniors, recently shed some interesting light on what young people want most. Nearly 2,000 essays were submitted in answer to the following question:

"If you could suddenly acquire superiority in one characteristic or ability, which one would you choose? Describe this characteristic or ability and give reasons for your choice."

"Most students (both boys and girls) chose 'the ability to make friends and be popular.' They said they wanted to be able to get along well with other people, to have a pleasing personality, to gain self-confidence and 'smoothness.'"

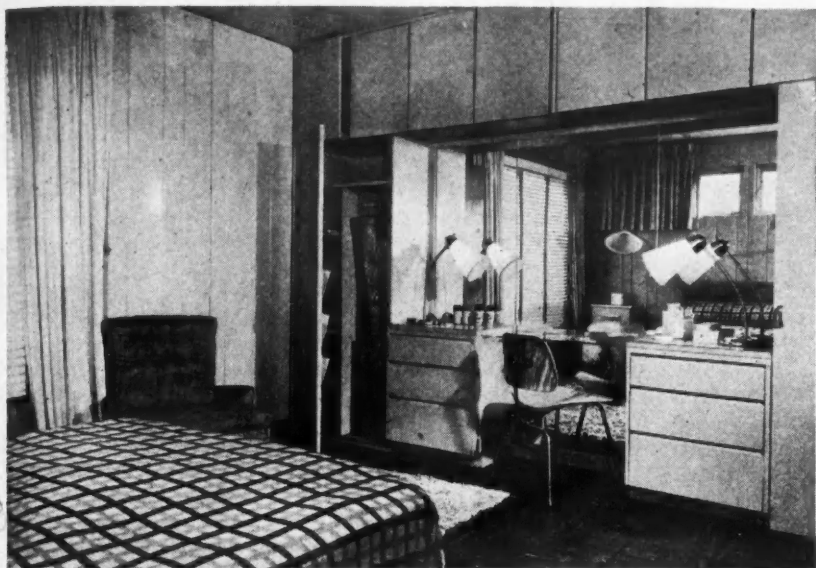
In explaining why he wanted the ability to make friends, one boy wrote, "There is a feeling of security in having friends that nothing else can give you. Whether I am a success in business or not, I will feel myself a success in life if I have the ability to make and keep friends."

The next largest group expressed a desire for "musical ability." More than half who made this choice said they wanted to be able to sing or to play a musical instrument as a means of gaining social success. They wanted to sing or play the piano, not for their own private pleasure, or as a means of earning a living, but as a way to entertain others and become popular.

The rest of the papers covered a wide range of interests, from playing big league baseball to being a band leader, a radio comedian, or a famous scientist. An interesting sidelight on the answers was that not one of the girls who entered the contest wanted to be a movie actress.



A JOURNALIST who recently visited French Morocco points out the opportunities that exist there.



A BEDROOM of the factory-built house shown in the lower picture on this page

LUSTRON CORPORATION

U. S. Housing Needs

(Continued from page 1)

has named *housing* as the second most important national problem now facing the American people, and has blamed the Republican Congress for not doing something about it. Republican leaders have answered this challenge by saying that new homes are now being built at record-breaking speed and that Congress has already done a great deal to solve the housing problem.

Both parties agree that the shortage of houses since the war has been a serious matter demanding attention by the federal government. But the two parties have disagreed on the best way to deal with the situation. Generally speaking, the Democrats would have the government spend more money and take more vigorous action in this field than would the Republicans.

With certain exceptions, such as Senator Robert Taft of Ohio, the Republicans feel that the private building industry can supply the housing needs of the nation better if it has a minimum of "interference" from the government. They point out that more than a million dwellings will be built this year, which sets a record for a 12-month period.

Truman Democrats reply that the cost of these homes is much too high for the people who are most in need of better housing, and that the government should help to provide homes for the lowest-income groups. They point out that a home which cost \$5,000 to build before the war now costs about \$10,000 and is beyond the reach of families with low incomes.

Although this issue is now in the forefront of political discussion, it is a problem which has been with us for many years. Even before the war a fairly large percentage of our people lived in crowded slums or in ramshackle houses in rural areas. During the 1930's, for example, it was estimated that over one-fourth of all people in New York City lived in tenements, many of which contained windowless rooms where sunlight never entered. In Washington, D. C., which was planned as a model city, a wretched slum area has existed for years within a few blocks of the Capitol.

Students of the housing problem have often pointed out that slums are breeding places for crime, juvenile

delinquency, and disease. Overcrowded living conditions are a menace to health and wholesome family life. The cost of fire and police protection is far greater in slum areas than it is in good residential districts.

In Cleveland, for example, a thorough study of the city's slum section was made some time ago. Although the slum population amounted to less than 3 per cent of the city's total population, it was responsible for 21 per cent of all the murders in the city. Nearly 7 per cent of all delinquent boys brought into juvenile court came from this section. Health services for the people in this area cost 3 times as much as the average for the city, while fire protection cost 6 times as much. Similar results have been obtained from studies of slums elsewhere.

Bigger Problem

But the housing problem today is not simply a matter of slum clearance. There is a shortage of houses all up and down the scale, from the cheapest to the most expensive. Just as automobile manufacturers have not been able to supply the demand for new cars, so the building contractors have not been able to meet the need.

Several factors have contributed to

this situation. *First*, there was a sharp falling off in the construction of new homes during the depression of the 1930's. From a peak of 900,000 new units built in 1925 the number dropped to only 100,000 in 1932—not enough to supply normal replacements and to meet the needs of our growing population. *Second*, there was very little home building during the war, except temporary structures to house war workers. Men and materials were needed for war production, and the building of new homes came to a standstill.

Since the end of the war the home-building industry has been working feverishly to make up for lost time. We are in the midst of the biggest "building boom" in our history. New homes and apartment buildings have been erected with record-breaking speed even in the face of shortages of all kinds of building materials such as lumber, bricks, glass, slate, copper pipe, and even common nails.

But in spite of all the new homes built during the past three years, we still have a housing shortage. Experts say we need to erect 1½ million new houses or apartments every year for the next 10 years to provide adequate homes for all our people.

Although there is a shortage of homes of all kinds today, the situation is most serious for families with low incomes. They cannot afford to buy new houses (a large proportion of which sell for more than \$10,000) or to pay from \$75 to \$100 a month rent. They need housing which can be purchased at low cost or rented at rates within their budgets.

To deal with this problem the Taft-Ellender-Wagner housing bill was introduced at the last regular session of Congress. It contained many provisions to encourage private industry to build more houses and to help families borrow enough money to buy homes. The bill passed the Senate but was not brought to a vote in the House before Congress adjourned.

The most controversial feature of the bill was its provision for *public housing*. The measure called upon the federal government to grant \$800 million to local governments for the purpose of clearing away slums and building 500,000 modern, low-rent housing units over a 5-year period. These new housing projects would have been open only to poor families who would have

rented them at low rates directly from the local government.

Those who believe that this provision of the bill should be enacted argue as follows:

"The present building boom is not providing houses and apartments for the people who need them most, the people with low incomes. The average veteran, for example, earns only about \$200 a month, and many earn less than that. He cannot afford to buy a house costing \$10,000 or more, or pay high rent for an apartment.

"What we need is low-cost housing, and that is what the Taft-Ellender-Wagner bill would give us. The federal government would provide the money for local housing authorities to build modern, inexpensive dwellings to be rented at low rates to poor families. This would make it possible to eliminate many slums and replace them with attractive, healthful housing units.

"No Profits"

"We cannot depend on private companies to invest in such projects because there is no profit to be gained from them. Private industry has had a chance to enter this field for many years, but it has never done so. Only the federal government can finance low-cost housing units.

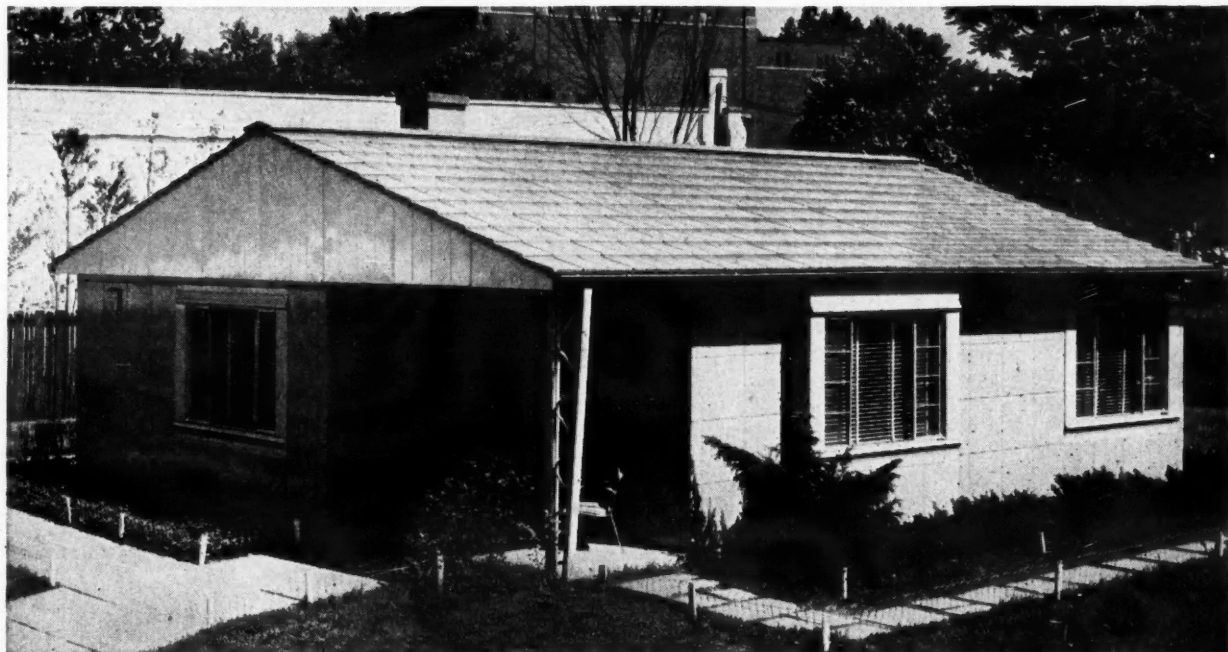
"The total cost will not be great when compared with the advantages which will result. Good housing pays big dividends, not only in terms of human happiness, but also in terms of good health, less crime and delinquency, and improved citizenship. Money spent on low-cost housing now will be a sound investment in America's future."

Those who oppose the public housing provisions of the disputed bill reply as follows:

"We all agree that slums should be cleared away and that every family in America should be properly housed. No one wants to see families living in dingy, overcrowded tenements. There is no argument on that point, but the real question before us is this: Who is to provide the housing we need—the government or private business? The only truly American answer to this question is that *private business* must do the job.

"Private enterprise in the housing industry has not failed. This year it is building over one million new

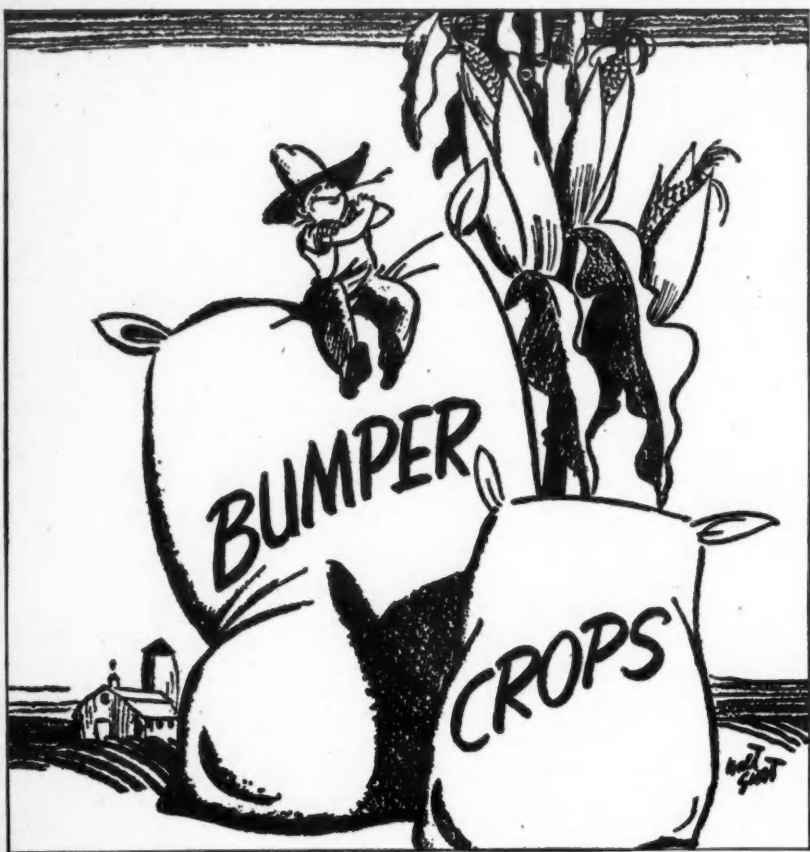
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ATTEMPTS are being made to lower the cost of building new homes by using assembly-line methods. Sections of the house shown above were constructed in a factory. They were brought to the building site and quickly put together there.

LUSTRON CORPORATION

The Story of the Week



THE FARMER has been sitting pretty in recent years, but he wonders how long his good fortune will last

Berlin Rioting

As we go to press, Communists in Berlin are trying to break up the regularly elected city government. Mobs have driven the Berlin council from the city hall which is located in the Soviet sector. Russian military police have not only allowed the rioters to have their own way but have also seized about 50 German policemen brought from the city's western sectors to keep order. Since the council has been forced to flee into the British part of Berlin, the Communists are expected to seize upon this fact as a pretext for installing their own city government.

U. S. leaders accuse the Russians of inciting these disorders at the very time that the Soviet Union is pretending to be working for a solution of the Berlin problem. Our government implies that the rioting was "staged" with the deliberate intent of breaking up the four-power negotiations which have been going on for some time.

The Russian view is that they are not responsible for the "spontaneous" action of German Communists. Soviet newspaper readers have been told by their government news agency, Tass, that the city hall rioting was caused by Americans who "blocked passage-ways and created disorder" in the building.

American observers fear that this latest incident may undo much careful planning that has been done in recent weeks in an effort to work out a solution of Russian and American differences. Our leaders have plainly indicated the seriousness with which they regard the matter.

End of Greek War?

U. S. observers think that the civil war in Greece may soon come to an end. The Greek government forces have made substantial gains in their

recent, major offensive against the Communist-led rebels. Since the middle of June the Greek army has captured almost 1,500 square miles in the rugged area around Mount Grammos in the northern part of the country. General Markos' rebel bands are now holding out in only a few, scattered strongholds.

Civil war has kept Greece in a turmoil ever since the end of World War II and has greatly delayed recovery in that country. The rebels have received help from the neighboring countries of Albania, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia, and for a time it seemed that they would come out on top. But the tide turned in the spring of 1947 when the Truman Doctrine made it plain that the United States would help Greece and Turkey to withstand communism. This summer's successful campaign was mapped out, to a large degree, by American military advisers of the Greek army.

High School Drivers

Enrollment in high school driver-training courses is expected to reach 500,000 during the present term—twice the enrollment during the 1947-48 school year. A number of large civic organizations are now joining in promoting these lessons in an effort to cut down the number of traffic accidents. Records show that drivers trained in high school are less likely to have accidents than those who learned to drive elsewhere.

Last year 32,000 lives were lost in highway collisions. Large numbers of people were permanently disfigured or crippled.

According to a recent national poll, the principal causes of accidents are driving too fast, clowning at the wheel, being careless in traffic, disregarding signs, and failing to signal.

One school which has been offering traffic education for a number of years

is Lane Technical High School of Chicago. The course at Lane—as in many other schools—includes indoor classroom study and the use of cars outdoors in typical traffic problems.

Friendship Bridge

Through a series of unique broadcasts, many average Americans are now telling people in Europe what life in the United States is like. Recorded by a traveling studio called the Friendship Bridge Radio Caravan, their interviews are broadcast from the New York or Boston studios of WRUL, a non-commercial station concerned with promoting peace by the free spread of information. Officials of WRUL feel that these broadcasts are extremely valuable in offsetting Communist propaganda abroad.

The Friendship Bridge Radio Caravan is now traveling through the Middle West, recording interviews for later broadcasts. The present tour is much like the one recently carried out in New England in which farmers, factory workers, housewives, and people from other walks of life were interviewed. Many of them were foreign born, or the children of foreign born, and were able to speak in the language of the country to which their interviews would be beamed. They told of the opportunities for success in America, of the free education for their children, and of the personal freedom they enjoy.

UN Meets in Paris

Tomorrow — September 21 — the United Nations General Assembly will meet in Paris. Ever since June, scores of workmen have been preparing the *Palais de Chaillot* for the session which will mark the first time that the "town meeting of the world" has met outside the United States. More than 230 tons of office supplies and equipment have been shipped from the UN's Lake Success headquarters to the site of the coming Assembly meeting.

The *Palais de Chaillot*, a crescent-shaped group of buildings in Paris, has been completely remodeled to make it suitable for United Nations use. Full sessions of the Assembly will meet

in a large theater beneath the central plaza which separates the two main buildings. Delegates' offices will be in the two curving wings of the "palace" which was built in 1937 to house the Paris World's Fair.

Many observers are predicting that the coming session will be the most important international gathering since the end of the war. A number of vital issues will be discussed by the delegates of the UN's 58 member nations.

Among the matters that are likely to cause heated debate are the struggle over Palestine, the abuse of the veto in the Security Council, the control of atomic power, and current disputes concerning Korea, Kashmir, and Greece. The Berlin situation may also come before the Assembly in one way or another.

The United States will be represented at the Paris meetings by a delegation of 71 persons. Secretary of State George Marshall will head the group, while the other chief representatives will be Warren Austin, John Foster Dulles, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Philip Jessup.

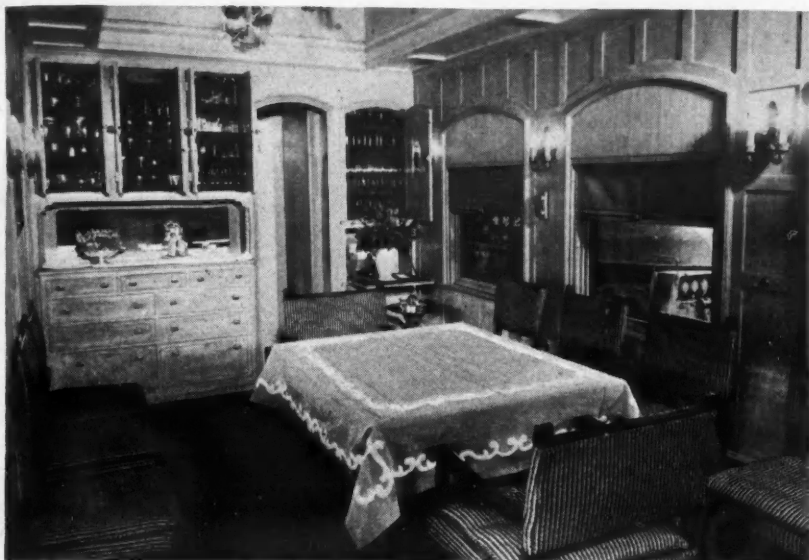
Wallace's Tour

Even though a large majority of the American people oppose many of Henry Wallace's views, some of his severest critics condemn the tactics used against him in certain places on his recent speaking tour through the South. In some towns and cities, eggs and tomatoes were thrown at the Progressive Party's presidential candidate as he tried to express his views. In a number of instances, such rowdiness interfered with all or a large part of his speech-making.

Many of our political leaders—in the South as well as the North—condemned the disorderly demonstrations. President Truman called the egg-throwing "a highly un-American business and contrary to the American spirit of fair play." He declared that Mr. Wallace was "entitled to say his piece the same as any other American." Governor Wright of Mississippi and Governor Cherry of North Carolina—among others—also spoke out against the behavior of certain audiences.



A CHICAGO STUDENT is taught to drive. Many high schools in different parts of the nation have set up driving courses



PRESIDENTIAL DINING ROOM. This view shows the dining room aboard the private railroad car that is taking President Truman on his campaign trips this fall.

The *Birmingham* (Alabama) *News*—reflecting the attitude of most newspapers in the South—condemned the egg-throwing in these words: "This is America. Here we believe in freedom of speech, freedom not only for the doctrines we dislike but freedom also for the doctrines we fear. . . . Let Wallace speak. Let him and his followers have their day in an orderly manner."

Mr. Wallace did meet with an orderly reception in some places. In Mississippi and Louisiana, for example, people listened to his remarks with a spirit of courtesy. At certain towns in other states, authorities acted promptly to punish those who had thrown eggs and tomatoes. In one case the culprits were ordered to copy—and ponder—the words attributed to Voltaire, famous French philosopher:

"I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."

Gridiron Outlook

As another football season gets under way, sports fans are talking over the prospects of their favorite college teams. According to pre-season forecasts, a number of the year's best elevens will come from the Midwest and Southwest. Both Michigan and Notre Dame seem to be set for another big season. Several other universities in these sections may produce top-notch teams. Among them may be Minnesota, Purdue, Missouri, Texas, Southern Methodist, Texas Christian, and a number of others.

In the South the University of North Carolina and the "rambling wreck" of Georgia Tech seem to have particularly good gridiron prospects. Penn State and the U. S. Military Academy at West Point may again be among the high-ranking elevens in the East. On the West Coast, California's chances look good as do those of Oregon and Southern California. Throughout the nation a number of "dark horse" teams will undoubtedly come into prominence as the season progresses.

Another favorite topic with football enthusiasts is the make-up of the 1948 All-American team. Two ball-carriers whose play in previous years stamps them as especially good pros-

pects are Doak Walker of Southern Methodist and "Choo Choo Charlie" Justice of the North Carolina Tarheels.

Walker, a 21-year-old junior, is one of the best all-round backs produced in the Southwest in a long time. The slippery Justice, a fleet and elusive runner, seems ready to have his biggest year. Many other players throughout the country will be in the running for All-American honors.

Seafaring Career

Qualified young men interested in a seafaring career may now make application to take the November entrance examination to the U. S. Merchant Marine Academy. High school graduates and those scheduled to graduate in January or February, 1949, are eligible to apply. The examination will take place on November 29, 1948, but all applications must be in the hands of the U. S. Maritime Commission by November 1.

Successful applicants will enter a Cadet School or the Merchant Marine Academy on March 1, 1949, for four years of training. During that period they will receive food, quarters, and

pay of at least \$65 a month. Graduates will be qualified as ships' officers in our merchant fleet and will also be commissioned as ensigns in the Naval Reserve.

Young men interested in getting application forms, catalogues, and complete information may write to Supervisor, U. S. Merchant Marine Cadet Corps, Bureau of Training, U. S. Maritime Commission, Washington, D. C.

Labor Picture

The labor-management scene—quiet for months—is beginning to show signs of unrest. As we go to press, strikes are taking place in two widely separated sections of the country. On the Pacific Coast some 30,000 dock and shipping workers walked off the job in a dispute with shipping industry employers. In New York City several thousand wholesale truck drivers are idle in a disagreement with the trucking companies. In both cases, strikes started after old contracts had expired.

The principal issue in the West Coast strike is the hiring hall—a hiring system under which only union members can get jobs. The ship owners want to put certain curbs on this procedure; the union wants the hiring hall retained in its present form. The dispute, which has already run through the "cooling-off" period provided by the Taft-Hartley Act, has stopped the movement of almost all ships in Pacific ports.

In New York the striking truckmen are asking for higher wages than the employers say they will grant. The drivers are also asking for a welfare fund. Some of the New York truckmen who originally went on strike have agreed to compromise terms, but many of the major companies with large fleets of trucks, at this writing, are still at a deadlock.

The capital of the Philippine Republic is now Quezon City, which lies 10 miles northeast of Manila, the old capital. The new city is named for the first President of the Philippines. Moving the government there will make more room in overcrowded Manila.

Personalities

WITH the Presidential campaign shifting into high gear, two of the busiest men in the country are the national chairmen of the major parties—J. Howard McGrath for the Democrats and Hugh Scott Jr. for the Republicans. Each is hoping for his party's victory in the November elections, and is doing his utmost to build up strong backing among the voters.

Howard McGrath was born in Rhode Island 44 years ago, the son of an Irish immigrant. As a boy he won a newspaper subscription contest and attracted the attention of Senator Peter Gerry, owner of the paper. With Gerry's help, McGrath went to college, earned a law degree, and got his start as a worker in Democratic politics.

For six years McGrath was U. S. District Attorney for Rhode Island, and in 1940 was elected governor of his state. Re-elected twice, he resigned in 1945 to accept appointment as Solicitor General of the United States. In this position he represented the government in a number of important cases before the Supreme



HUGH SCOTT (left) is Chairman of the Republican National Committee, and **J. Howard McGrath** holds that position in the Democratic Party.

Court. A year later his home state made him a U. S. Senator.

In the Senate McGrath has usually followed party lines in his voting. In 1947 he went to Europe as a member of a mission studying the displaced persons' problem. McGrath has the knack of making friends easily, and is a popular party Chairman.

Republican Chairman Hugh Scott is also a man who has successfully combined politics and the practice of law. A member of an old Virginia family, Scott received his education in that state, and in 1922 went to Philadelphia to practice law with an uncle.

He was active in local politics and for 15 years was Assistant District Attorney for Philadelphia County. During the war Scott spent some time in the Navy and took part in the landing at Tokyo. He also served as an ordinary seaman on a tanker carrying high octane gas to England in order to study Merchant Marine problems.

Mr. Scott was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1940 and was reelected in 1942. In 1944 he was defeated, but two years later he bounced back to win over the man who had beaten him. In Congress Scott has been a staunch supporter of his party's policies.

The 47-year-old Republican Chairman must devote some of his time to mapping out strategy for his own reelection to Congress in November.

—By HOWARD O. SWEET.

SMILES

Maid: "Madam, Mr. Smith is lying unconscious in the hall with a piece of paper in his hand and a large box by his side."

Mrs. Smith: "Oh, my new hat is here."

"My friend laughed when I spoke to the waiter in French."

"He did?"

"Yes, but the laugh was on him. I told the waiter to give him the check."

A grizzled old banker in a small town was being interviewed on his successful career.

"How did you get started in the banking business?" he was asked.

"That was simple," he replied. "I put up a sign saying 'Bank.' A feller came in and gave me \$100. Another gave me \$200. By that time my confidence had reached such a point that I put in \$50 of my own money."

A man named Idzi Zurek was sentenced to eight years in prison by a court in Poznan, Poland. His offense was expressing doubts whether Poland is truly independent. Eight years in the clink should certainly teach him how free he is.

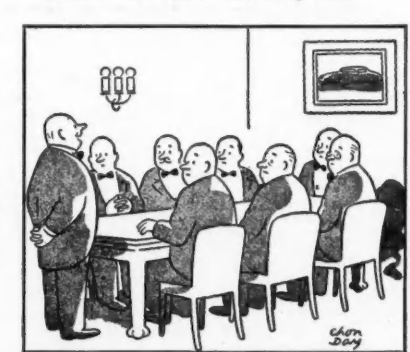
"Shall we have a friendly game of cards?"

"No, let's play bridge."

Sailor: "Don't bother me. I'm writing to a friend."

Marine: "Why do you write so slowly?"

Sailor: "He can't read very fast."



"Gentlemen, I think I may safely say that our future is assured—we're going to make used cars."

Reasons for France's Political Weakness

(Concluded from page 1)

as well as his own. The idea is that if the leaders of two or three more parties accept cabinet positions under a premier, they can induce their followers to support the premier and the cabinet.

By this kind of maneuvering, a premier may think that he has a majority lined up on his side, so he tells the president that he will take the premiership. He will appoint a cabinet, or, as it is frequently expressed, he "forms a government."

Then comes the real trial. He goes before the Assembly and asks the enactment of an important piece of legislation. If a majority of the Assembly supports him, he remains in office. If a majority votes against him, he must resign and let somebody else try to "form a government."

Sometimes an issue arises upon which it is very hard to get a compromise. The various party members in the Assembly oppose one another sharply on the issue. In such a case, it is very difficult for anyone to take and hold the office of premier. One who tries it will have a hard time to get a cabinet popular enough with the different parties in the Assembly to obtain for the premier a majority of the votes. When this happens the country may be without a premier and cabinet for several days or weeks.

This does not mean, of course, that the nation will have no government and that chaotic conditions will prevail. When there is no cabinet, the permanent officers of the different government departments and bureaus go ahead with their work, and the necessary tasks are duly performed. But no new laws can be enacted during such a period, and, in case of an emergency such as the present, that may be very serious. It means that the nation cannot get legislation on important issues.

Constitutional Provision

The Constitution of France makes provision for action in case premiers find it impossible to carry on their work through lack of a majority in the Assembly. If two premiers are removed from office by a "no confidence" vote within a period of 1½ years, the Assembly is automatically dissolved. It goes out of business and special elections are called for the purpose of choosing a new Assembly.

During the present crisis, however, the parties in the Assembly have evaded this rule in the Constitution. They vote against a premier on some issue and force his resignation, but they do not call this a "no confidence" vote. Actually it is, but the Assembly members say it is not in order to "get around the Constitution."

If it were not for this trickery, an election in France would have been held long ago, for several premiers were forced out of office by the Assembly early this month within a few days' time.

Probably the government of France would be more stable if the Constitutional rule on the calling of a new election were strictly obeyed. Members of the Assembly usually do not like the idea of a new election. It means that they will lose their seats in the Assembly and will have to become candidates for reelection. Faced by that danger, Assembly members are inclined to support a premier, ex-

cept in extreme cases, so as to avoid the new election which his defeat might bring about.

The cabinet crisis this month has illustrated the operation of the French government in practice. A difficult issue arose—the issue of high prices. In France, as in many other parts of the world, the people are in the grip of inflation. There simply isn't enough produced in the nation to meet the needs of the people. There are shortages of food and other goods. People scramble to buy the scarce materials, and the prices are pushed up by the keen competition among customers.

had enough votes to secure a majority in the Assembly. Hence Premier Marie was voted down on August 27. For several days, efforts were made by other French leaders, including former Premier Schuman, to obtain a majority, but this proved to be extremely difficult. As we go to press, Henri Queuille, a Radical Socialist, is premier and has formed a new cabinet. (His party, despite its name, is conservative.) What the situation will be when this paper reaches its readers, however, cannot be foretold.

In the midst of the cabinet crisis there have been frequent suggestions

General de Gaulle is urging the establishment of a stronger government for France. He favors giving the president more power. He thinks that a president, with an assured term of office and large powers in the government, would be able to avoid the crises which many times in its history have threatened the stability of France.

A good many French people fear that de Gaulle, if he found himself in power, would establish a dictatorship. He and his followers deny any such intention.

Between these two extremes, there are a number of other parties which occupy middle ground in the contest over how much power the government should have in the economic life of the nation, and how far the government should go in helping to raise living standards of the lower-income groups.

If a new election is held in France, the world will watch closely to see whether one of the extreme parties gains political power, or whether the majority of French people will support the "middle parties."

U. S. Housing

(Concluded from page 3)

dwelling units, more than were built in any previous year of our history. This is an impressive accomplishment, and in 1949 the total of new houses built will be even greater.

"It is true that we still do not have enough houses to satisfy everyone. But isn't that true of nearly everything these days? We do not have enough new cars to meet the demand for them, but no one suggests that the government make automobiles.

"The Taft-Ellender-Wagner bill would put the government in the housing business. It would make government agencies the owners of great housing projects all over the country. Political leaders would become the landlords for millions of tenants.

"This is socialism. It is directly contrary to the principles of free enterprise which have made America great. It would be the entering wedge for socialistic ideas which would eventually destroy our free way of life."

These were among the pro and con arguments set forth when Congress debated the Taft-Ellender-Wagner bill last spring. They will be heard frequently during the political campaign this month and next.

At the special session last July and August, Congress did not pass this housing bill, in spite of President Truman's plea for its enactment. Instead, a substitute measure without any provision for public housing or slum clearance was adopted. The new law encourages private businessmen and insurance companies to invest money in low-cost housing projects. In the Senate, the Republicans voted for the substitute bill by a majority of 3 to 1, and the Democrats voted against it by a majority of 2 to 1. The measure passed the House by an almost unanimous vote.

While members of each party disagree among themselves on the issue, many more Democrats than Republicans favor government-operated and subsidized housing for low-income groups.



THE EIFFEL TOWER, a landmark in Paris. When it was built in 1889, the tower was the tallest structure in the world

With prices soaring, workers are insisting upon higher wages.

The fight to increase wages, and the question of what to do about rising prices found their way to the Assembly. The Communist party loudly advocated an increase of wages for the workers. The Socialists, who are more moderate than the Communists, but who rely on the support of labor for votes, added their voices to the demand for higher wages.

The more conservative parties urged that, instead of increasing wages, efforts should be made to boost production so that people would have more to buy, and thus the competition for food and goods would not be so great as it is today.

Neither the radical parties, representing labor, nor the other parties

that the Assembly should be dissolved and that an election should be called. If there is an election within the next few weeks, it will be very different from the presidential and congressional elections which will occur in the United States next November. The French campaign will be much more heated, and the issues will be more critical and more bitterly contested.

An election in France would see two opposite groups in a struggle for mastery. On the one side, the Communists favor government ownership of industry, a dictatorship in government, and close cooperation with Russia. On the other extreme would be the followers of General de Gaulle. His supporters are, in the main, conservative and represent the middle or upper classes, rather than the lower classes.

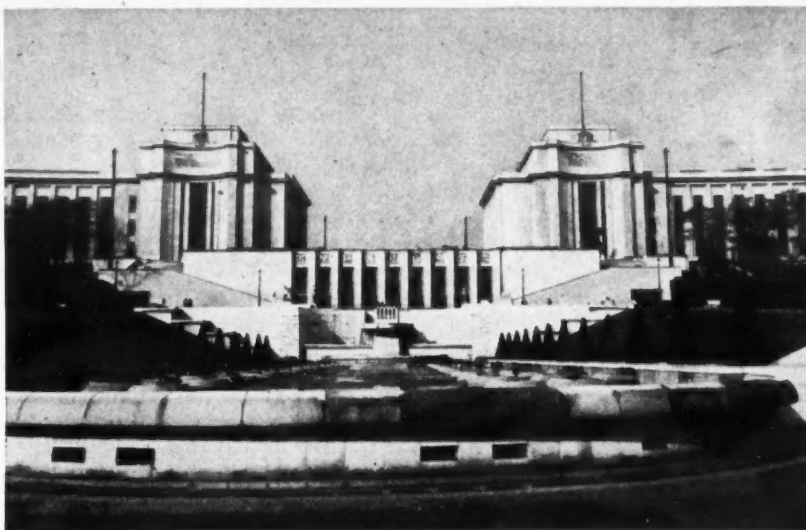
Science News

ALTHOUGH the great 200-inch telescope on Palomar Mountain in California was dedicated a short time ago, it will be several months, or perhaps a year, before it can be put to work. The reason for this is the difficulty of setting up the instrument's heavy mirror. This mirror is 17 feet tall and weighs over 14 tons, so that its great weight causes it to sag. Scientists are hard at work trying to prop it up in such a way as to eliminate the sag, so that the giant telescope can begin its job of exploring the heavens.

Specialists of the Army Chemical Corps say that chemistry may help to solve the world's food problems in future years. Chemicals to make plants grow faster will mean more plantings in one season. They will also make it possible to grow certain crops in regions where the growing season is extremely short. Moreover, chemicals are being used to keep fruit from falling off the tree before it has ripened. Other substances are producing sweeter tomatoes, and a variety of wheat rich in protein.

A plastic cloth as strong as steel is made by draping cloth over a mold and covering it with a layer of liquid plastic. Additional layers of cloth and plastic are applied until a "sandwich" of many layers has been made. Then it is heated and dipped in hot water until it hardens. The cloth can be molded into water pipes, automobile bodies, boats, airplane fuselages, and furniture.

For many years, the most accurate way to tell time has been to observe the position of the stars in relation to that of the earth. Now scientists have an even better way to test the accuracy of the world's clocks. A researcher at the Bell Telephone Laboratory has developed an electronic instrument which will vary only a second in 114 years. Instead of a moving pendulum, the clock has a quartz crystal which vibrates electrically. Some timepieces of this type are being used by the Bureau of Standards in Washington, D. C., and others by scientists in England. —By HAZEL LEWIS.



PALAIS DE CHAILLOT in Paris, where the UN General Assembly meets tomorrow

Paris Is Host to UN

General Assembly to Hold Session in City of Beauty and Culture
Whose History Goes Back More than 2,000 Years

PARIS, where the United Nations Assembly will hold its third regular session, is one of the most beautiful metropolises in the world. Declared an "open city" before it was occupied by the Germans in 1940, it escaped serious damage from bombing. Although the United States and British air forces dropped many bombs on the industrial areas near the city, they tried not to bomb the city itself, and when Paris was liberated in August of 1944, most of her historic landmarks were still standing.

The French capital is noted for its broad streets lined with trees; its countless public parks in which fountains play; its sidewalk restaurants where one can enjoy a bite to eat while watching the people pass by; its open-air bookstalls along the Seine River which offer for sale books in all languages; its market places where Parisian housewives bargain with food merchants in hopes of stretching their meager food budgets.

Paris has been called the "queen of culture," because it is here that appreciation of art, music, literature and fashion is felt by such a large proportion of the people. The average Parisian will point with pride to the Louvre, which houses many of the world's art treasures, to the University of Paris on the famous Left Bank

of the Seine, and to the Grand Opera House, the largest one in the world.

Paris is a very old city, just how old no one really knows. The first written record of it is to be found in Caesar's *Commentaries* in which he refers to a meeting held there in 53 B.C. The city was not planned; it simply grew. Until the second half of the 19th century, its streets were a hodge-podge of narrow, winding alleys connected by somewhat wider avenues.

Under Napoleon III, a great transformation took place. Streets were widened and others constructed. Laws were passed requiring that new buildings conform to certain limitations as to height and size. Trees were planted along various boulevards and gardens and parks were laid out. This program, which is still being followed, created a truly beautiful city.

Among the points of interest certain to be visited by the traveler in Paris is the great Gothic cathedral of Notre Dame, located on an island in the middle of the Seine. Although it was damaged in World War I by the Germans, it has been repaired and remains one of the most impressive buildings in the world.

Another inspiring landmark of Paris is the Arc de Triomphe, a magnificent monument built by Napoleon "in honor of the victories of France." Beneath this arch lies France's unknown soldier of World War I, in whose memory burns a flame which never goes out.

The Pantheon is another monument which is of interest to the visitor. In this huge building are buried some of France's most distinguished men, such as Victor Hugo, Rousseau and Voltaire.

The population of Paris is estimated to be about 3½ million, and the city is one of Europe's most important railway centers. In addition, Le Bourget, its airport, is the hub of a vast airline network which stretches throughout most of the world.

The tourist trade is one of Paris' most important sources of income, but there are other industries in the city. Although seriously disrupted by the war, the automobile, chemical, soap, dye and leather industries have recovered rapidly and are now producing at a rate equal to their prewar standards.

Know How

THERE is something wrong with the person who is seldom able to keep an appointment on time. It may be the mark of a defect in character, one sign of his general lack of dependability, or it may merely be the result of slovenly habits which might easily be broken. Whatever the cause, one who is habitually late should undertake at the earliest possible moment to mend his ways and make punctuality an essential part of his daily conduct.

Tardiness is as flagrant a breach of etiquette as bad table manners or any other habit which is frowned upon by the well-bred. It is an iron rule of etiquette that you should arrive at an appointment at the stipulated time. You should never keep your hostess waiting at a dinner party, nor should you fail to call for your partner at the time agreed upon.

Many girls consider it smart to keep their boy friends waiting. Such conduct is as inexcusable as it is rude. Whether you are to meet someone in town, appear at the family table, or keep a business appointment, be on time.

There are, of course, certain circumstances under which tardiness is unavoidable. In such cases, the proper course is to inform the person who is waiting for you of the delay and to appear on the scene as soon as possible. Such rare instances will be understood and excused if you have established the reputation of being punctual.

Your Vocabulary

In each of the sentences below match the italicized word with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Correct answers are to be found on page 8, column 4.

1. No one found out about his part in the *insidious* (in-sid'i-us) plot. (a) sly and deceitful (b) minor and unsuccessful (c) military spying.

2. Her summary of the conference was *superficial* (super-fish'al). (a) complete and accurate (b) shallow and hasty (c) interesting and lively.

3. A *taciturn* (täs'i-turn) guard stood at the gate. (a) strong (b) tactful (c) silent (d) uniformed.

4. He could not conceal the *rancor* (rang'ker) in his voice. (a) jealousy (b) resentment (c) insincerity (d) horror.

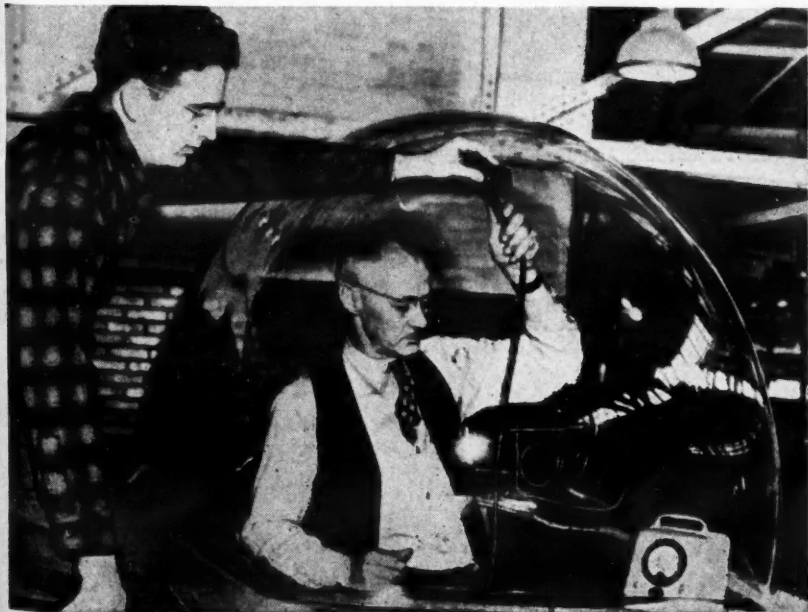
5. The old man was an *eccentric* (äk-sen'trik) individual. (a) sly (b) excitable (c) strange (d) energetic.

6. The explorer made *fantastic* (fan-täs'tik) claims. (a) extravagant (b) angry (c) well-founded (d) dishonest.

7. We often found his comments *galling* (gaul'ing). (a) sarcastic (b) humorous (c) prejudiced (d) irritating.

8. *Equestrian* (ë-kwes'tri-an) sports pertain to: (a) horses (b) swimming and diving (c) indoor matches (d) boxing.

9. He gave the matter a *cursory* (kur'sor-i) examination. (a) preliminary (b) thorough (c) hasty (d) final.



THE TWO MEN are testing the thickness of a plexiglass cover for a helicopter cockpit. Too great a variation in thickness might cause the dome to collapse under wind pressure. The testing instrument operates electronically.

Careers for Tomorrow - - - Journalism

JOURNALISM is a broad term young people often use when asked what they want to do when they finish school. If, when they think of a career in this field, they narrow their goal and obtain proper preparation, they may look forward to enjoyment and success. But if they do not have a fairly definite idea as to what branch of journalism they want to enter, and do not prepare themselves adequately for it, they may face disappointment.

A journalist is a writer who deals with factual material. He collects information for his articles by watching events, by interviewing people, by doing research in libraries, or by studying records and reports of government agencies and other organizations. A journalist may do free-lance work and sell his stories to newspapers and magazines, or he may be regularly employed by some publication.

Certain natural qualifications are necessary for a successful career in this field; but here, as in most other types of work, "talent" can only be developed by hard work.

First of all, a journalist must be able to write clearly and interestingly. He must, of course, know the rules of grammar and punctuation. But beyond this, he should have the ability to put his ideas into clear, straightforward English.

Second, a journalist needs an inquiring mind, a native curiosity that prompts him to take nothing for granted and makes him go as far as he can in collecting information about a given subject.

A "nose for news" is a third characteristic that a prospective writer

must have. This is a kind of sixth sense that tells a reporter what subjects will interest people and what topics are likely to be important when his publication reaches its readers.

A fourth qualification is the capacity for keen observation. A journalist must be able to grasp significant details and, at the same time, get an



MANY JOURNALISTS begin their careers on high school papers

over-all understanding of the event or material he is to describe.

A young person who feels he has the qualifications outlined above and decides upon a journalistic career must face the fact that hard work lies ahead. He will learn to write only by writing, and probably a great deal of his early output will find its way to his editor's waste basket. But by practice, he can learn the "trade."

Developing the ability to write is only part of the journalist's job. He must work equally hard to build up a background of information that he

can draw upon in his writing. Many journalists specialize in one field or another—in politics, science, or education, for instance. Others do more general reporting. Whichever kind of writer one becomes, he must strive constantly to add to his knowledge.

A formal education is not essential in this work, though college training is beneficial and may help a prospective journalist in getting his first job. In addition to English and grammar, a writer should get a broad background in history, economics, and psychology. Then he should concentrate on the field in which he expects to specialize.

Incomes of journalists vary greatly. A beginner may earn from \$40 to \$50 a week in larger cities, but he may receive only \$25 to \$30 in small communities. Successful writers on metropolitan newspapers may earn as much as \$150 a week. On the average, unless one reaches top rank in the field, he will probably not earn more than \$75 a week.

Earnings of free-lance writers depend upon the number of articles they sell and the prices they are able to get. Relatively few free-lance writers are able to make a good living.

A career in journalism has advantages and disadvantages. The work is seldom monotonous, and a writer often knows and talks to interesting people. On the other hand, competition for jobs is keen, and almost every writer is under the constant strain of having to meet deadlines.

An increasing number of women are entering the field of journalism.

—By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.

American Presidents - - Wm. Howard Taft

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT holds a unique position in American history. He was the only man ever to serve as head of two of the three branches of the federal government. He was President of the United States from 1909 to 1913, and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court from 1921 to 1930.

Taft's career was a long and distinguished one. Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, three years before the outbreak of the Civil War, he attended local schools and then studied at Yale. After graduating with high honors he took up the study of law and soon entered politics as a Republican. At the early age of 30 he was appointed a judge of the Superior Court in Ohio.

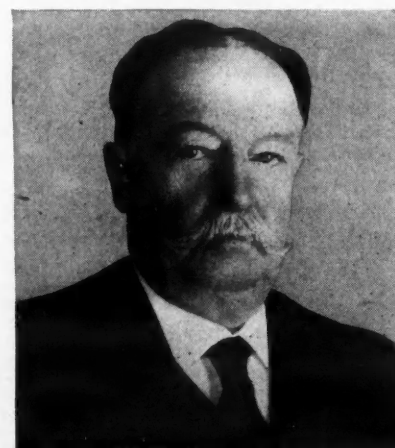
This was but the first of many honors which came his way. In 1890 President Harrison appointed him to a post in the Department of Justice, and two years later he became a federal judge. At the end of the Spanish-American War he was chosen to be the first governor of the newly acquired Philippine Islands. In each of these positions Taft gained recognition for his ability and strong character.

At the end of his term in the Philippines, Taft returned home to become Secretary of War in the cabinet of Theodore Roosevelt. This was a turning point in his career, for Roosevelt took a strong liking to Taft and supported his nomination for President by the Republican Party in 1908. In the election of that year Taft easily

won over the Democratic candidate, William Jennings Bryan.

As President, Taft was far less picturesque than Roosevelt. His legal training made him more cautious than the impulsive "Teddy." And he generally favored the conservative wing of the Republican Party rather than the progressive group which had supported Roosevelt. As a result, Roosevelt and Taft quarreled and the Republican Party was split into two rival factions.

In many respects, though, Taft carried on the policies begun by Roosevelt. Conservation work was continued, though at a slower pace, and prosecution of big business monopolies was vigorously pushed. But Taft



WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT, twenty-sixth President

failed to hold the confidence of many progressive members of both parties. In the mid-term election of 1910 the Democrats won control of the House of Representatives, and during the next two years Taft's influence and popularity sharply declined.

The break between Taft and Roosevelt decided the outcome of the election in 1912. Taft was re-nominated by the regular Republicans and Woodrow Wilson was named by the Democrats. Roosevelt then bolted the Republican ranks and formed a third party known as the Progressive or "Bull Moose" party (so called because Roosevelt, when asked about his health, said he felt "as strong as a bull moose"). Because of this split in the Republican votes, Wilson was elected. Taft carried only two states, Vermont and Utah, with but 8 electoral votes.

Retiring from politics, Taft became professor of law at Yale University. But after the election of a Republican administration in 1920 he was given the high honor of appointment as Chief Justice. He served in this position until his death in 1930.

At the end of the year 1912, Taft's popularity had reached a low ebb. In contrast to Roosevelt, he was considered a weak and unsuccessful President. But in later years his reputation steadily gained ground. He has never been regarded as one of America's great Presidents, but historians now recognize that he was a man of real ability and unquestioned honesty.

—By HARRY C. THOMSON.

Study Guide

Housing Problem

1. Approximately what percentage of families in the United States has been forced to move in with friends and relatives because of the housing shortage?
2. According to studies made in Cleveland and other cities, how do overcrowded living conditions affect normal family life?
3. Give two reasons why a shortage of houses exists today.
4. What has been the most controversial feature of the Taft-Ellender-Wagner housing bill?
5. Summarize the arguments of those who advocate federal subsidies and community-operated housing projects for low-income groups.
6. What arguments are advanced by those who oppose the public housing provisions of the Taft-Ellender-Wagner bill?
7. How do the two parties stand on this issue?

Discussion

1. Do you think Congress should or should not pass the Taft-Ellender-Wagner housing bill in its present form? Why, or why not?
2. Private builders are constructing more than a million new homes this year. Do you or do you not feel that they will gradually solve the housing problem without any further government action?

France

1. How many premiers did France have from April 1945, when Harry Truman became President, until the first of this month?
2. What is the leading body of the French government? Who is the most important official?
3. How long does a premier hold power in France?
4. Why is it difficult for a premier to get a majority of the members of the French Assembly to support him?
5. What provision does the Constitution of France make in case two premiers are removed from office by a "no confidence" vote within a period of 1½ years?
6. What device has the French Assembly used in the present crisis to "get around" the Constitution?
7. If an election should take place in France, what two extreme groups would compete for power?

Discussion

1. What do you feel is the main advantage and disadvantage of the French form of government? Explain.
2. Briefly discuss the differences between the French and American political systems.

Miscellaneous

1. What are the American views on the cause of the recent rioting in Berlin? What point of view does Russia take on the matter?
2. Describe the progress that has been made in the Greek civil war during recent months?
3. List the five principal causes of automobile accidents as set forth in a recent national poll.
4. Name three persons who will act as representatives of the United States at the UN General Assembly Session in Paris?
5. How is the Friendship Bridge Radio Caravan helping to offset Communist propaganda abroad?
6. In addition to their jobs as chairmen of the two major parties, what posts in our government are held by J. Howard McGrath and Hugh Scott?

Pronunciations

Palais de Chaillot—pah-lay duh shy-oh
Henri Queuille—ahn-rê kuh'yuh

Answers to Vocabulary Test

1. (a) sly and deceitful; 2. (b) shallow and hasty; 3. (c) silent; 4. (b) resentment; 5. (c) strange; 6. (a) extravagant; 7. (d) irritating; 8. (a) horses; 9. (c) hasty.